

## Livingston County Historical Society 2023 Newsletter

This year has been a busy and productive one for our Society.

### January

By plan, we do not hold a January meeting. Robert McCoy, a Pontiac artist, donated his wonderful illustration of Abe Lincoln and the Strevell House to the Society. It is now hanging in the Conference room.



Dale spent 88 hours cleaning and organizing the archive collection in the basement of Pontiac City Hall.



### February

Dale attended a Historic Preservation Planning meeting in Bloomington.

Dale gave a talk on the on Historical Society Artifact Collection at our 1st meeting of 2023.

On Feb. 24th, the Illinois State Preservation Agency approved adding the Strevell House to the National Register.



### March

Dale & Joyce attended a Route 66 Road Repair Planning Meeting.

Dale gave a talk on the 1887 Chatsworth Train Wreck in Gibson City. The DAR gave Dale a Blue Ribbon for excellence in Historic Preservation.

Dale cleaned the Strevell House 2nd story storage room and added shelving to properly store 40 Harold Cunningham (Pontiac Artist) paintings. His Pontiac scenes are on display in the Conference Room.



### April

Strevell House received final approval to be added to the National Register.

Fairbury Rotary Club really liked Dale's talk on process of adding Strevell House to the National Register.

Dale completed the construction of 2 additional murals for Colfax Improvement Group.

Logan Pappenfort gave excellent talk on Native American history.

### May

Annual potluck supper held at the Strevell House.

### June

Dale, Tom Ewing, and Tom's wife attended the McLean County Museum 2023 History Makers. Dale gave Guy Fraker a free copy of the Strevell House book.

### July

Dale created a Wikipedia page for Jason Strevell.

The Yost House had special gardens made by Master Gardeners.

### **August**

Mark Osman and Dale Maley promoted the Historical Society on Kent Casson's radio show.

Held celebration party at Strevell House for successful addition to the National Register. Twenty-five people braved a torrential rain and waded across a flooded Livingston Street to attend.

Dale installed a plaque donated by the Asper family for F. Earl and Thelma Asper. They helped renovate the Jones House.



Dale finished painting all the white trim on the Jones House.

Dale donated funds for City of Pontiac to add hostas to the Strevell House front yard.

Strevell House was featured on WMBD Peoria TV Station on CI Proud Road Trip.

Dale started writing a new book on the Jones House. A large Ohio group toured Yost & Strevell Houses, and gave \$165 donation.

Many Society members visited the traveling Smithsonian Exhibit in Chatsworth featuring Fairbury & Chatsworth.

### **September**

Dale gave short Fairbury history talk to car club luncheon planned by Dave Sullivan and Allen Finkenbinder.

Dale gave regular meeting talk on various projects completed during the Summer of 2023.

### **October**

Dale repaired the broken display case at the Historic Courthouse.

Misty Bell gave a presentation about new initiatives in Pontiac. Society decided to participate in the Pontiac Christmas tree downtown project.

Jones House held a special Story Time program.

### **November**

Dale made a coal display and a Civil War token display for the Jones House.

The Pontiac Library started digitizing all the old Pontiac Sentinel and Daily Leader newspapers.

Dale & Joyce attended another Route 66 road repair meeting.

Jim Ridings, history book author, gave excellent presentation on the Ottawa Tuberculosis Tent Colony.

### **December**

The new Jones House book is 99% completed.

Mark Osman and Dale promoted the Historical Society on Kent Casson's radio show.

Dale processed all 2023 donations and entered them into the archive inventory list.

Our special December meeting was a book signing at the Yost House.

### **2024**

We wish everyone a happy holiday season.

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the Historical Society. We will be planning some special event(s) to celebrate this anniversary.

